U. S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
2722 South Front Street
P O Drawer AA
Richlands, Virginia 24641

April 26, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHARLES E. McGRAW
Subdistrict Manager

FROM: JAMES C. FRANKLIN James C Franklin
Supervisory Coal Mine Safety
and Health Inspector

CLARDY J. SCAMMELL Clardy J. Scammell
Coal Mine Safety and Health Inspector

SUBJECT: Coal Outburst (Bump), Consolidation Coal
Company, Buchanan No. 1 Mine, I.D. 44-04856

On Monday April 10, 1989 at approximately 2:15 p.m., a coal outburst (bump) occurred between the mined out 4 North longwall panel and the active 5 North longwall panel at the subject mine.

The MSHA office in Richlands, Virginia was notified of the outburst by Mr. Joe Aman, mine superintendent, at approximately 4:00 p.m. on April 10, 1989. Mr. Aman did not know the extent of the outburst at that time but felt that ventilation or travel had not been impaired in the affected area.

On Tuesday April 11, 1989, James C. Franklin, MSHA Supervisor, Clardy J. Scammell and Douglas G. Evans, Federal coal mine inspectors, visited the mine to examine the affected area and assess the damage and extent of the outburst.

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the occurrence.

The major force of the outburst (bump) appeared to have been centered between SS# 3666 and SS# 3738 in the No. 3 development entry for the mined out 4 North longwall panel (see attached map). Several of the chain pillars between the 4 North longwall gob and the yield pillars adjacent to the tail entry for the active 5 North longwall were severely affected by the outburst. Three (3) cribs installed in the 5 North longwall tail entry were dislodged or displaced.

Ventilation in the active workings had not been impaired and travel down the tail entry of the active longwall was not impeded by the outburst.

The 5 North longwall section is used as a spare section and was not being worked on the day the outburst occurred.

The outburst was not reportable as defined by 30 CFR Part 50.2(9) in that miners did not have to be withdrawn and regular mining activity was not disrupted.

The following conditions are believed to have contributed to or caused the outburst:

The immediate roof in the affected area was a strong sandy shale and the floor was a dense sandy shale of undetermined thickness that resisted heaving.

This area of the mine is under a mountain peak and overburden is approximately 2100 feet.

The 5 North longwall panel is worked intermittently which could have caused the chain pillars in the affected area to load with stress.

RECOMMENDATION

We strongly recommend that when similar conditions (i.e. firm roof and floor and abnormally thick overburden) are encountered, mining of the longwall block be done on a regular basis. As the roof caves behind the longwall panel this should prevent the chain pillars from overloading to the extent of failure.

Attachment

cc: File